

Report of the PROCINORTE Agricultural Library and
Information Services Task Force
to the
Seventh Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of
PROCINORTE
October 27-28, 2005, Mexico City

The Agricultural Library and Information Services Task Force will hold its 9th Annual meeting November 9-10, in Saltillo Mexico. Task Force members representing the Canadian Agricultural Library (CAL), the National Agricultural Library (NAL), and Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro (UAAAN), continue to make progress on the overarching goal of engaging in cooperative interactions of mutual interest to support the agricultural sector of the region by improving access to relevant information.

Communications among members was greatly enhanced this year through the establishment of two listservs at the NAL ("REMBA" and "LibraryPROCI") and through regularly scheduled conference calls coordinated by CAL.

We are pleased to report the following progress on Task Force Objectives:

Objective Number 1: To continue to strengthen the role of the UAAAN Library as a depository library for NAL and CAL

1.5 CAL and NAL to continue to provide surplus materials selected by UAAAN

- To date, the Canadian Agriculture Library has sent a total of five boxes of surplus material to the Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro in Saltillo, Mexico. We expect that additional relevant material will be sent to the UAAAN once the UAAAN intern is on site at the Canadian Book Exchange to select material for shipment. The Canadian Book Exchange is an organization run by Library and Archives Canada to distribute surplus library material to requesting organizations.

1.6 Create a Web site for USDA publications on AgNIC with UAAAN translating and enhancing in Spanish

- NAL/AgNIC is developing a Spanish language database interface for USDA publications available through the Agricultural Network Information Center (AgNIC) www.agnic.org. Beginning this year, faculty at UAAAN will translate approximately 2,500 USDA publication record titles into Spanish. Records will be input into the database by UAAAN library staff.

1.7 In exchange for translation of NAL Document Delivery documents (policy documents, web pages, etc.) by UAAAN, NAL will provide copies of articles from its collection (up to 100 articles).

- NAL filled 52 requests for documents from UAAAN during 2005.
- NAL is providing training to UAAAN library staff in the use of its new electronic document request and management system.
- UAAAN staff will be translating into Spanish instructional materials associated with the new document delivery system. The instructions will be posted to the NAL Web site with acknowledgement of the PROCINORTE partnership with UAAAN.

Objective Number 2: Improve NAL and CAL access to Mexican Agricultural information.

2.2 UAAAN will participate in AgNIC by contributing a Spanish language USDA publications page

- See progress listed under 1.6 above.

2.4 Explore UAAAN creating a subject page in NAL/AgNIC using the web portal.

- UAAAN is working with AgNIC to develop a Web site on the subject of Arid Lands.

Objective Number 3: Strengthen the network of Mexican agricultural libraries (REMBA)

3.3 Investigate funding of UAAAN internship at NAL and CAL through various sources of funding opportunities.

- The Canadian Agriculture library is pleased to host two interns from Mexico to participate in the Agricultural Science and Agricultural Research Internship Program for the period of October 10 to 29. Alejandro Marín-Acuña from the Universidad de Aguascalientes (UAA), and Guadalupe Ramírez Rivera from the Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Narro (UAAAN) are the library technicians who have qualified to participate in this program sponsored by the IICA-Canada Office. This program was developed in 1996 through the collaboration of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, several Canadian institutions and IICA. The purpose of these internships is to promote capacity building and technology transfer in the areas of Information Management and Library Sciences within the field of Agriculture.

3.5 Request that the PROCINORTE executive secretariat, in conjunction with UAAAN, explore the feasibility of holding and supporting a REMBA meeting as part of the 9th Annual Meeting of the PROCINORTE Library and Information Task Force meeting. AgNIC governance documentation will be provided as a guideline for consideration

- The PROCINORTE Library and Information Services Task Force will host a special meeting of REMBA, the Mexican Agricultural Library network to establish an action plan for revitalizing the network. The meeting will take place on November 9, in Saltillo. Joining PROCINORTE in this endeavor will be representatives from SAGARPA and IICA/SIDALC, the Sistema de Información Agrícola para las Américas as well as some 20 university library representatives from throughout Mexico. Presentations and breakout sessions will examine networking success stories and identify collaborative networking opportunities and challenges. Anticipated outcomes of the meeting include establishing action items to pursue in the short term and establishing an interim governance group for REMBA.
- The PROCINORTE Library and Information Services Task Force will also sponsor a 2-day training workshop for REMBA members, November 7-8, preceding the REMBA meeting. The Workshop will review ISO 9000 standards for quality management and quality assurance as they relate to libraries and information centers. The training will serve as a foundation from which to begin to discuss what 21st century technologies and skills will be required for REMBA libraries to deliver state-of-the-art customer services.

A more detailed status of all actions items and future needs will be submitted following the PROCINORTE meeting in November. I would like to conclude my report by saying that it has been a privilege to again serve as Chair of the Task Force. I would most especially like to acknowledge the efforts of Task Force colleagues, Ingrid Monasterios of CAL and Gustavo Villarreal of UAAAN, as well as NAL colleagues Yvette Alonso and Melanie Gardner for their year-long efforts in furthering the objectives of the Action Plan. I would also like to thank Gustavo Cruz Bello for his ongoing support and prompt assistance in resolving administrative issues.

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Ingrid Monasterios, CAL
Gustavo Villarreal Maury, UAAAN